



SECRET FREEDOM
PART 1 OF 4

ISSUE **41**

SEGA®

SONIC **UNIVERSE**™



ENTER: **THE SECRET**
FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

Tracy Yardley
2009

Welcome to the planet Mobius - - a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Harvey Who and Elias Acorn have joined forces to form an all-new team of Secret Freedom Fighters!

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...



The city of New Mobotropolis is under SIEGE!

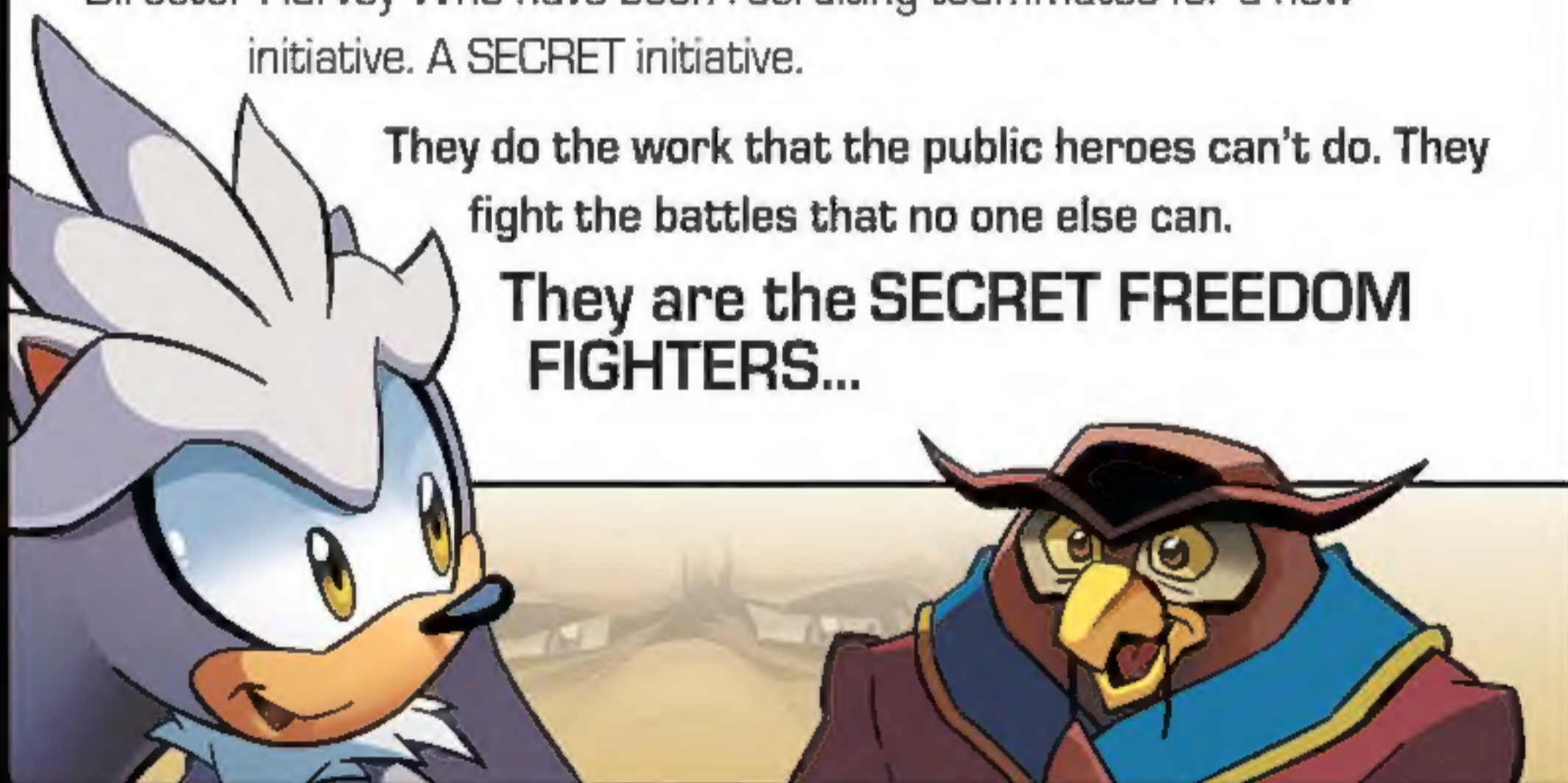
Sonic the Hedgehog's home city continues to reel following the devastating attacks of Dr. Eggman. These attacks have led to the destruction of the city's heroes, the Freedom Fighters.

To make matters worse, the city has also been attacked from within! The evil wizard Ixis Naugus, and his apprentice Geoffrey St. John, have usurped the crown of Acorn, and driven the former King Elias Acorn and his family into exile! King Naugus has used his dark magic to turn the tide of public opinion in his favor, but such an unstable and evil ruler has put the entire kingdom and its people in jeopardy.

But little does Naugus know, that in the shadows of the city in which he rules, there is a movement rising up. Elias and retired Secret Intelligence Director Harvey Who have been recruiting teammates for a new initiative. A SECRET initiative.

They do the work that the public heroes can't do. They fight the battles that no one else can.

They are the SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS...



WHO'S WHO



**SILVER
THE HEDGEHOG**
TIME TRAVELER
--CALL SIGN "ACE"



SHARD
REFORMED METAL SONIC
--CALL SIGN "JACK"



LARRY LYNX
SUPER-JINX
--CALL SIGN "JOKER"



**GEOFFREY
ST. JOHN**
TRAITOR AND
IXIS APPRENTICE

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UNSUNG HEROES' PART ONE

The **BIG GUNS!**

SOLMERCA

HOW'S IT HANGING, BUDDY?

F-F-FINE! ARE W-W-WE THERE Y-Y-YET?

IT'S BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE I SPEND MORE TIME HERE THAN IN MY OWN TIME-LINE...

IAN FLYNN
WRITER

TRACY YARDLEY!
PENCILS

JIM AMASH
INKS

STEVE DOWNER
COLORS

JACK MORELLI
LETTERS

YARDLEY!
& DOWNER
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EXEC. EDITOR

VICTOR GORELICK
ED-IN-CHIEF

MIKE PELLERITO-PREZ / THANKS TO ANTHONY GACCIONE & CINDY CHAU AT SEGA LICENSING

... BUT IF IT MEANS SAVING EVERYONE, I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES!

SILVER THE HEDGEHOG
-- CALL SIGN "ACE"
TIME-TRAVELER

BEN BATES - SKETCH VARIANT COVER

"EVEN JOIN THESE
"SECRET FREEDOM
FIGHTERS"!!

HOURS EARLIER,
AT SECRET H.Q....

...AND OUR INFORMANT
ON THE COUNCIL SAYS ST.
JOHN IS BOUND FOR SOU-
MERCIA. WE MUST KNOW
WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT
THAT NAUGUS WOULD
SEND HIS ERRAND BOY
SO FAR FROM HIS
SIDE.

HARVEY WHO
DIRECTOR OF
THE S.F.F.

AGENT ACE WILL LEAD THE TEAM
TRACKING ST. JOHN AND SECURE
A TRACKING DEVICE SO WE KNOW
HIS MOVEMENTS IN THE FUTURE.
AGENT KING WILL LEAD THE
TEAM TO INVESTIGATE NAUGUS.

REMEMBER: ANONYMITY IS YOUR
FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE, SO USE
YOUR CALL SIGNS AT ALL TIMES.

ANY QUESTIONS?

ER...
MORE LIKE
A REMINDER...

I REMEMBER OUR DEAL.
WHILE YOU'RE AWAY, I WILL
BE GOING OVER YOUR NOTES
AND WILL IDENTIFY THE
"TRAITOR" YOU'RE HUNT-
ING FOR. YOU SCRATCH
MY BACK, I SCRATCH
YOURS.

R-RIGHT.

JUST
MAKING
SURE.

WINDY VALLEY--
SOLMERCA

THAT'S OUR
TARGET'S
AIRBOARD.
I GUESS HE'S
BELOW.

OKAY! THIS
IS GOING TO
BE RISKY.
STAND
BACK!

KLIK

Whew!
THERE! TRACKER
ATTACHED! OH, MAN,
THAT WAS SO
DANGEROUS
AND HARD!





WOULD YOU KNOCK IT OFF? WE'RE ON A SERIOUS MISSION HERE! AT LEAST IF WE HAVE TO TRACK HIM AGAIN, IT'LL BE EASIER!

DON'T GET YOUR SPINES IN A KNOT. WE'RE HERE TO TAKE ON ONE GUY.

I THINK WE CAN HANDLE IT.



I'M NOT PICKING UP ANY TRAPS...

SHARD--CALL SIGN "JACK" REFORMED METAL SONIC



...BUT THAT'S A LONG WAY DOWN!

I'LL LOWER US TO THE BOTTOM, THEN.



HOW ABOUT "NO"? YOUR POWERS SHORT-OUT ELECTRONICS, AND IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, I'M A ROBOT.

IT'S HOW I USE THEM. AND MY POWERS ARE SILENT. YOUR ROCKETS WOULD GIVE US AWAY.

CRUMBLE



AND WE'RE TRYING TO BE SUBTLE!

AUGH!

LARRY LINX--CALL SIGN "JOKER" SUPER-JINX



AND--
WHOOSH--!
I MOVE EVEN
FASTER THAN
YOU CAN
THINK!



CONGRATULATIONS.
AND NOW, BETWEEN
HIS SCREAMING
AND YOUR ENGINE,
ST. JOHN WILL
KNOW WE'RE
HERE!

YOU'RE A "GLASS
HALF-EMPTY" TYPE OF
GUY, AREN'T YOU?

WHY
WOULD
YOU
BUILD
A DEATH
TRAP THAT
LEADS INTO
A DEATH
TRAP?

TO KEEP
THIS PLACE
A SECRET
FROM
EVERY-
ONE...

STEP
BACK,
BUD.

YOU'VE
TRIPPED
ENOUGH
TODAY.

I'M SORRY!
I DON'T REALLY
HAVE FULL CONTROL
OVER MY JINXES.

ABOUT THAT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND. DO YOU HAVE POWERS LIKE ME?

NOT EXACTLY.

BAD STUFF JUST... HAPPENS AROUND ME. SOMETIMES I CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN TO THE ENEMY, OTHER TIMES...

LARRY?! LARRY?!

I'M SORRY! THE TARGETING SYSTEM WENT HAYWIRE FOR SOME REASON!

"THINGS JUST SEEMED TO KEEP FALLING APART. MY TEAM HAD DISBANDED... I TRIED TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE, BUT MY BALLOT BOX SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTED. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF, UNTIL...

GYAH!

"...TURNED INTO GREAT LUCK!"

OH! H-HELLO, THERE! UM...LET ME EXPLAIN...

hmm...NO.

ALLOW ME.

WHUMP

"...A BIT OF BAD LUCK..."

LARRY LYNX, CORRECT? FORMER FIELD LEADER OF THE SUBSTITUTE LEGION?*

Mmm... TELL ME, SON, WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE THIS CITY SAFE AGAIN?

Y-YES, SIR. BUT NOBODY SEEMS TO REMEMBER THAT.

I BELIEVE I COULD USE SOMEONE WITH YOUR UNIQUE TALENTS.

*SONIC SELECT VOL. 1

SO THE DIRECTOR DECIDED TO SEND YOU-- SOMEONE WHO CAUSES RANDOM THINGS TO GO WRONG-- ON SENSITIVE SPY MISSIONS?

≡COUGH≡ I KNOW WHO THE TRAITOR IS! ≡COUGH≡ 'SCUSE ME WHILE I LEAP TO CONCLUSIONS IN A SINGLE BOUND! ≡COUGH≡

≡HACK≡
≡COUGH≡

≡Ahem!≡

THE DIRECTOR IS HELPING ME WITH THAT.

I KNOW HE IS, HOT-SHOT.

HE'S ALSO GIVING ME AND LARRY A SECOND SHOT WITH HIS LITTLE SPY TEAM.

MIGHT WANT TO KEEP THAT IN MIND SINCE THIS IS YOUR-- WHAT? --FOURTH?

HEY! I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOUR TIME-PERIOD!

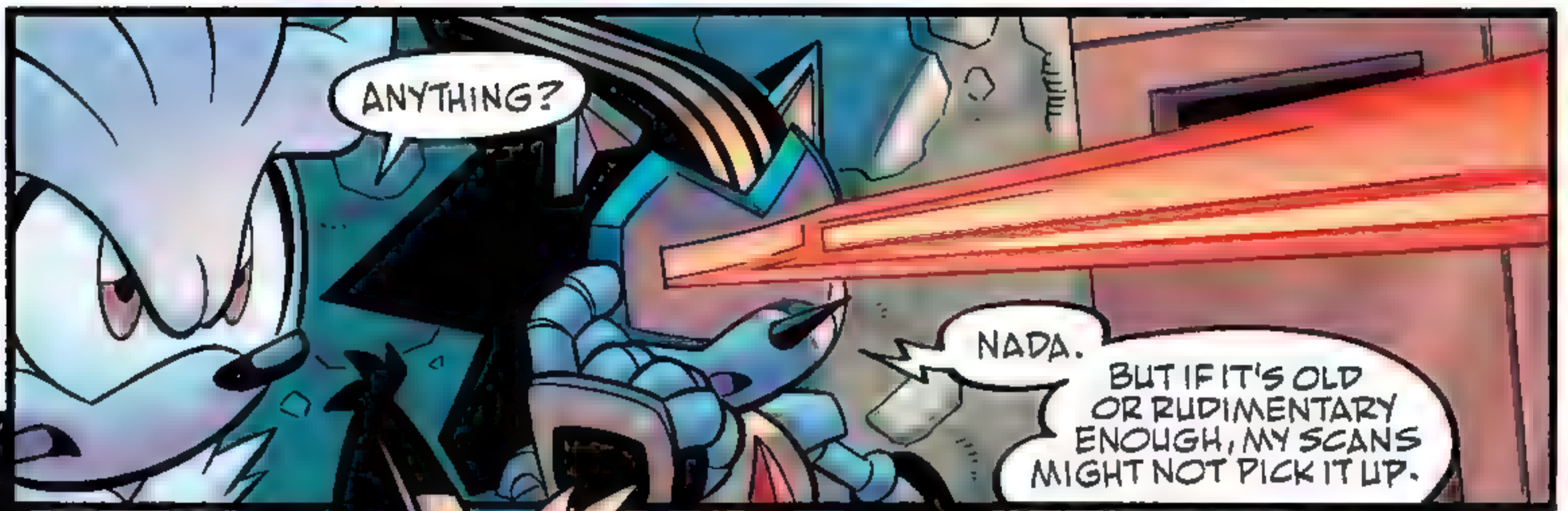
AND LARRY'S BEEN FIGHTING FOR IT SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN!

THAT'S BECAUSE I'M FROM THE FUTURE!

HEY GUYS?

ACE? JACK? WE'VE GOT SOMETHING UP AHEAD.

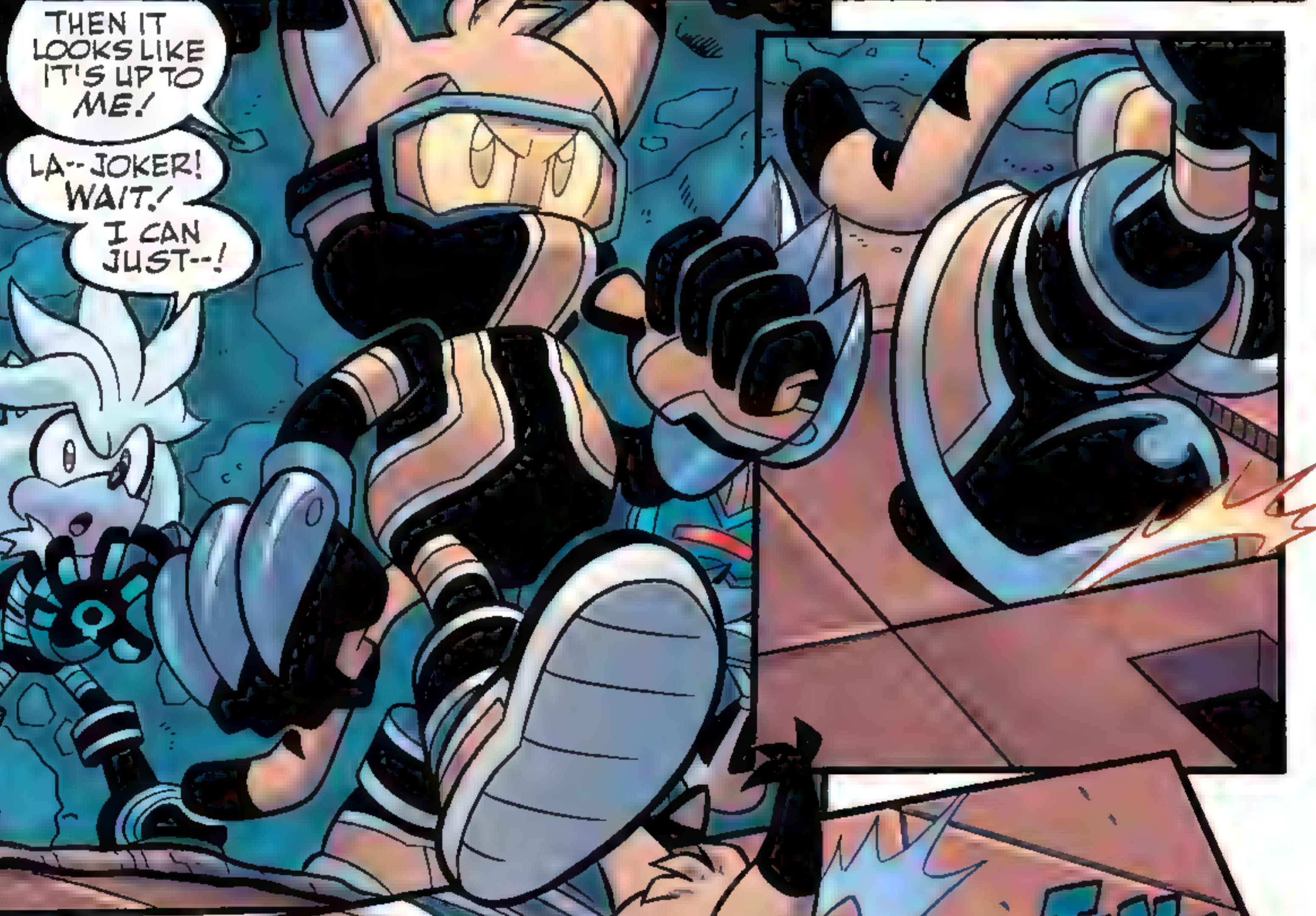
NOPE. NOT SUSPICIOUS AT ALL.



ANYTHING?

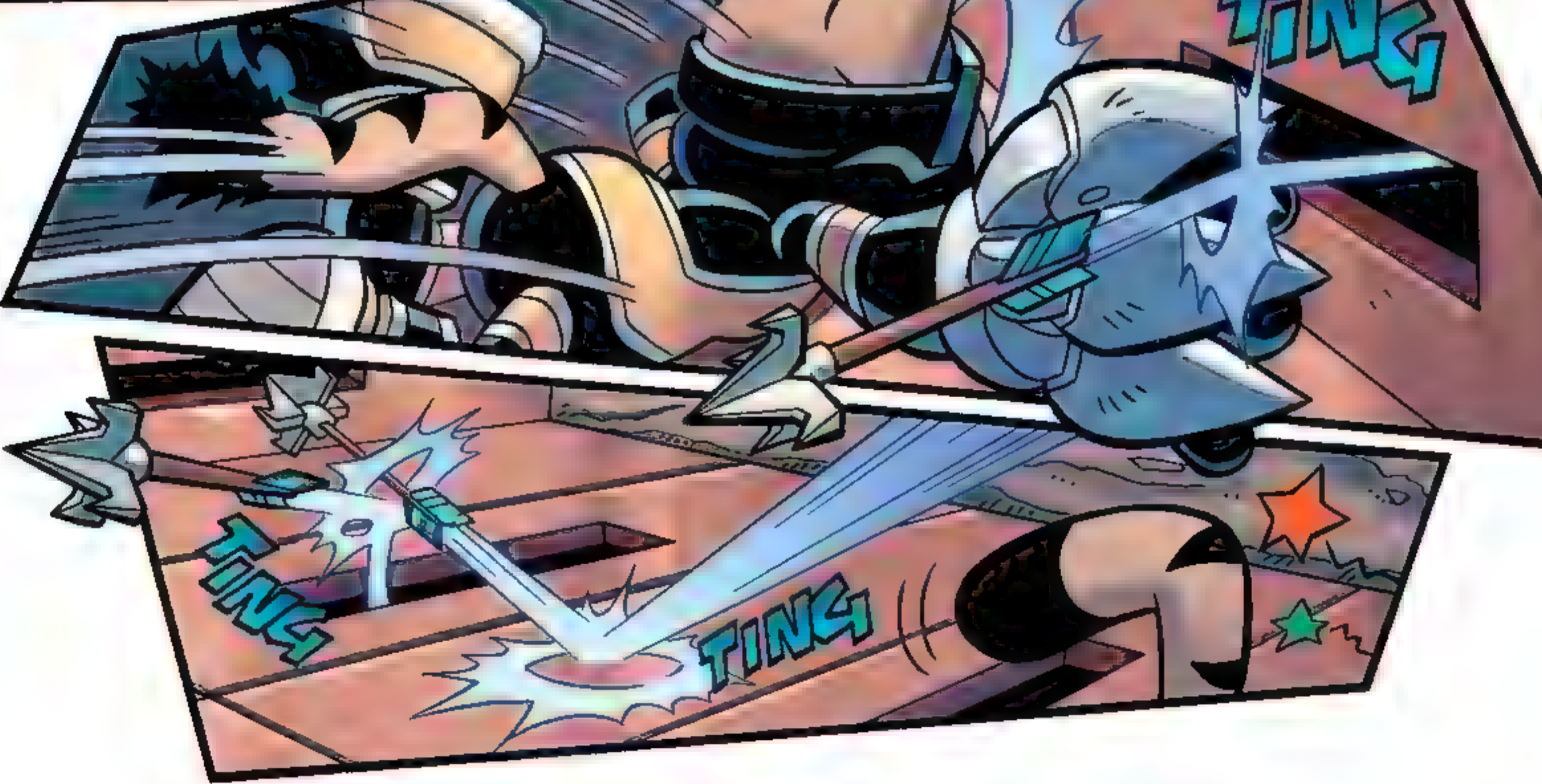
NADA.

BUT IF IT'S OLD OR RUDIMENTARY ENOUGH, MY SCANS MIGHT NOT PICK IT UP.



THEN IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO ME!

LA--JOKER! WAIT! I CAN JUST--!



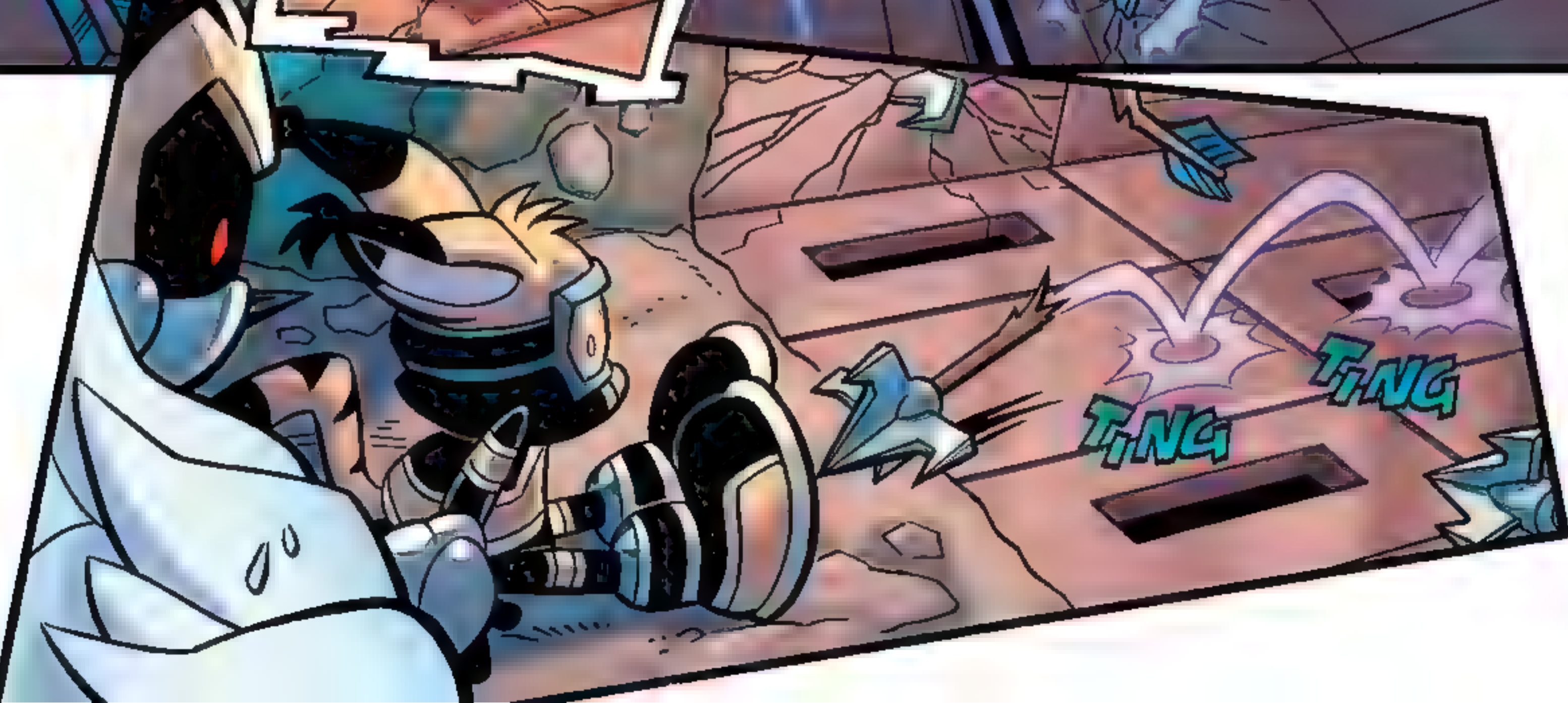
TING

TING

TING



TRAP!!



RUMMBLE

SOMETHING SET OFF THE FIRST ROUND OF TRAPS...

AND I'M THE FIRST BLOKE TO STEP FOOT IN HERE IN CENTURIES...

SOMEHOW, I DOUBT THAT'S A COINCIDENCE.

BETTER MOVE QUICK SO I SEE THEM BEFORE THEY SEE ME.

GEOFFREY ST. JOHN
SPY & IXIS APPRENTICE

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO A GOOD OL' FASHIONED PIT OF SPIKES?

THE BALLS HAVE SPIKES.

HOW IS ANYONE SUPPOSED TO GET PAST THAT?!

THEY'RE NOT, UNLESS THEY HAVE SKILLS LIKE NAUGUS.

BUT MY POWERS CAN HOLD THEM ALL IN PLACE, SO WE CAN...

YEAH...

BUT THE ONES IN THE PIT DIDN'T MOVE.

HOLD THAT THOUGHT. SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY COMIN' THROUGH.

BLAM!

BLAM!

BLAM!

CHANK

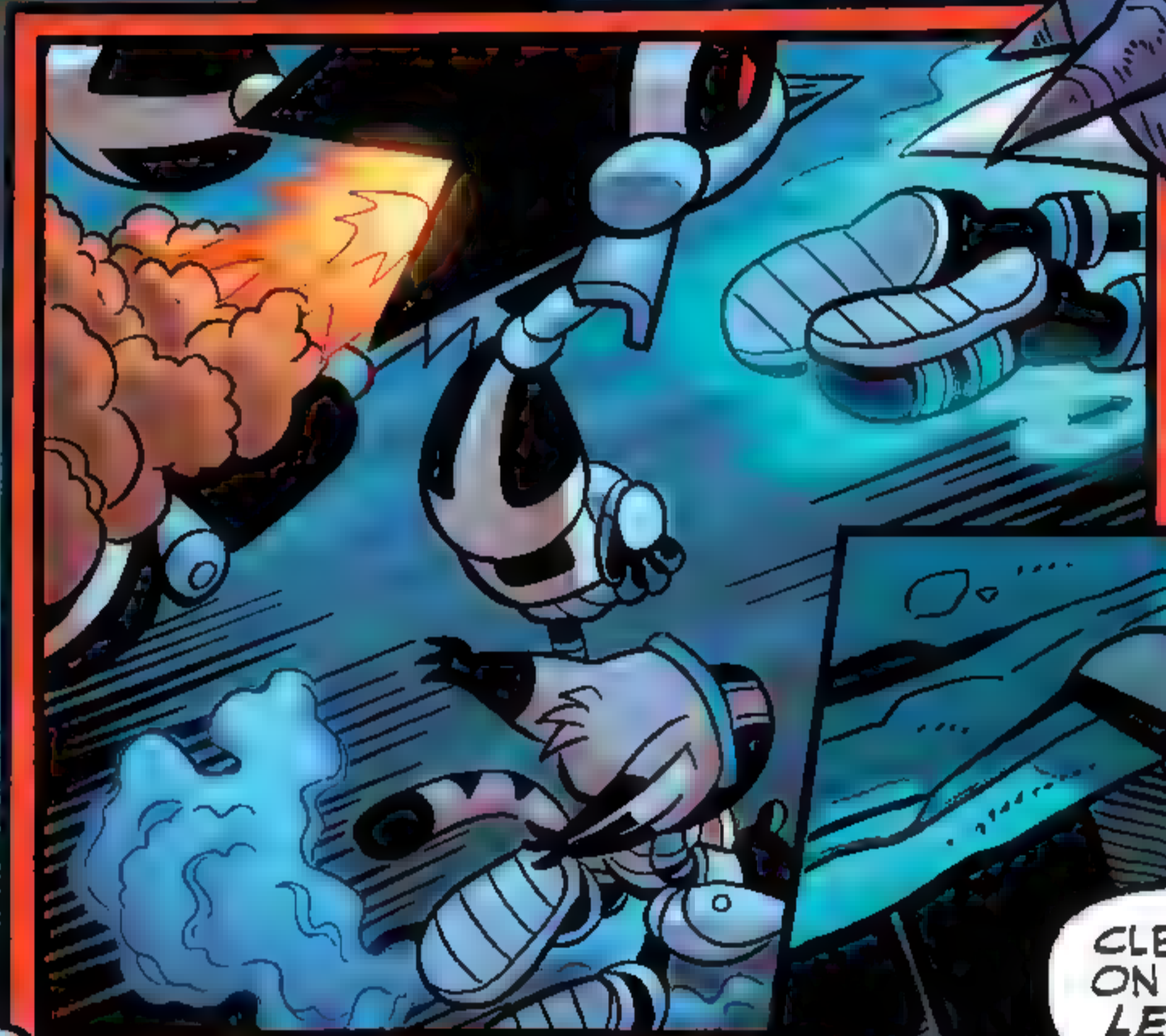
KRASH

JUST MAKING
YOUR JOB EASIER,
ACE.

BLOWING
THINGS UP
AND ALERT-
ING OUR
TARGET
DOESN'T
HELP,
JACK.

MEH.

WE BLEW
THAT ANGLE
OF THE
MISSION A
HALLWAY
AGO.



CLEAR
ON THE
LEFT.

CLEAR
RIGHT.

THAT LOOKS LIKE WRITING. CAN YOU MAKE OUT WHAT IT SAYS?

SEEMS LIKE A DEAD LANGUAGE. RUNNING A CROSS-REFERENCE.

OKAY, I THINK IT SAYS: THIS IS THE CRYPT OF IXIS VALE, ONE OF IXIS MOGUL'S FOUR ELITE."

IXIS... MOGUL?

ARE YOU SURE?

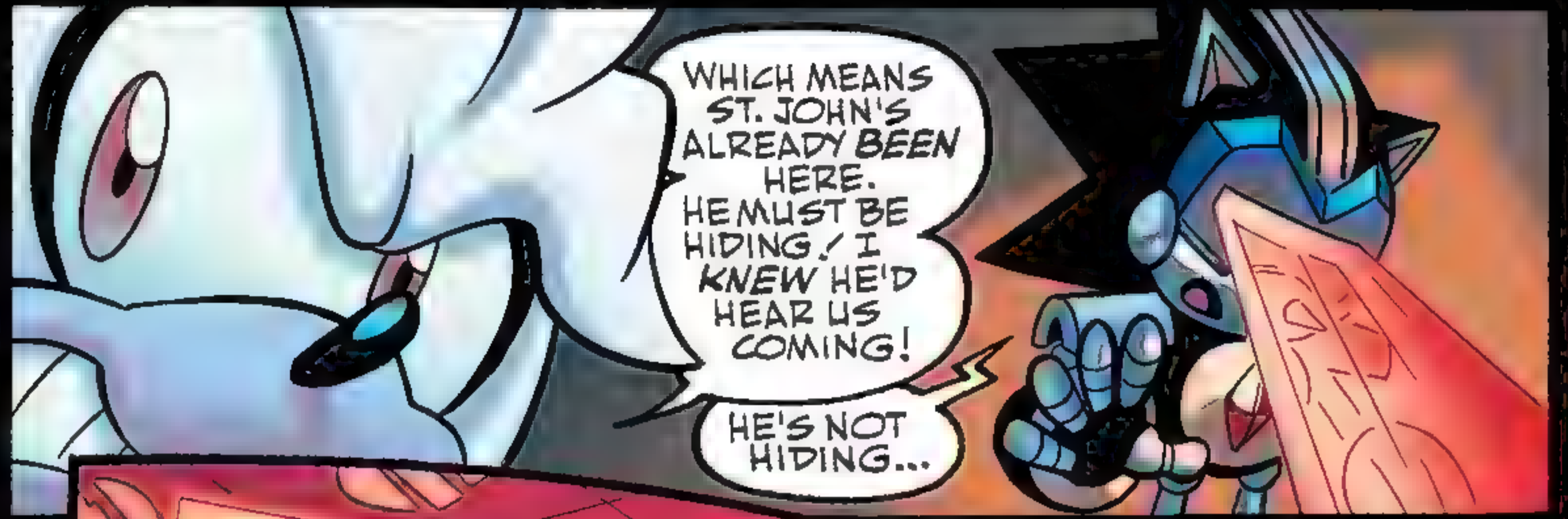
PRETTY SURE, YEAH. WHY?

UH... NO REASON.

SURE. "NO REASON!"

IF THIS IS A CRYPT, WHERE ARE THE REMAINS? THIS IS JUST A ROOM.

IT SAYS VALE'S REMAINS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE RIGHT HERE.



WHICH MEANS ST. JOHN'S ALREADY BEEN HERE. HE MUST BE HIDING. I KNEW HE'D HEAR US COMING!

HE'S NOT HIDING...

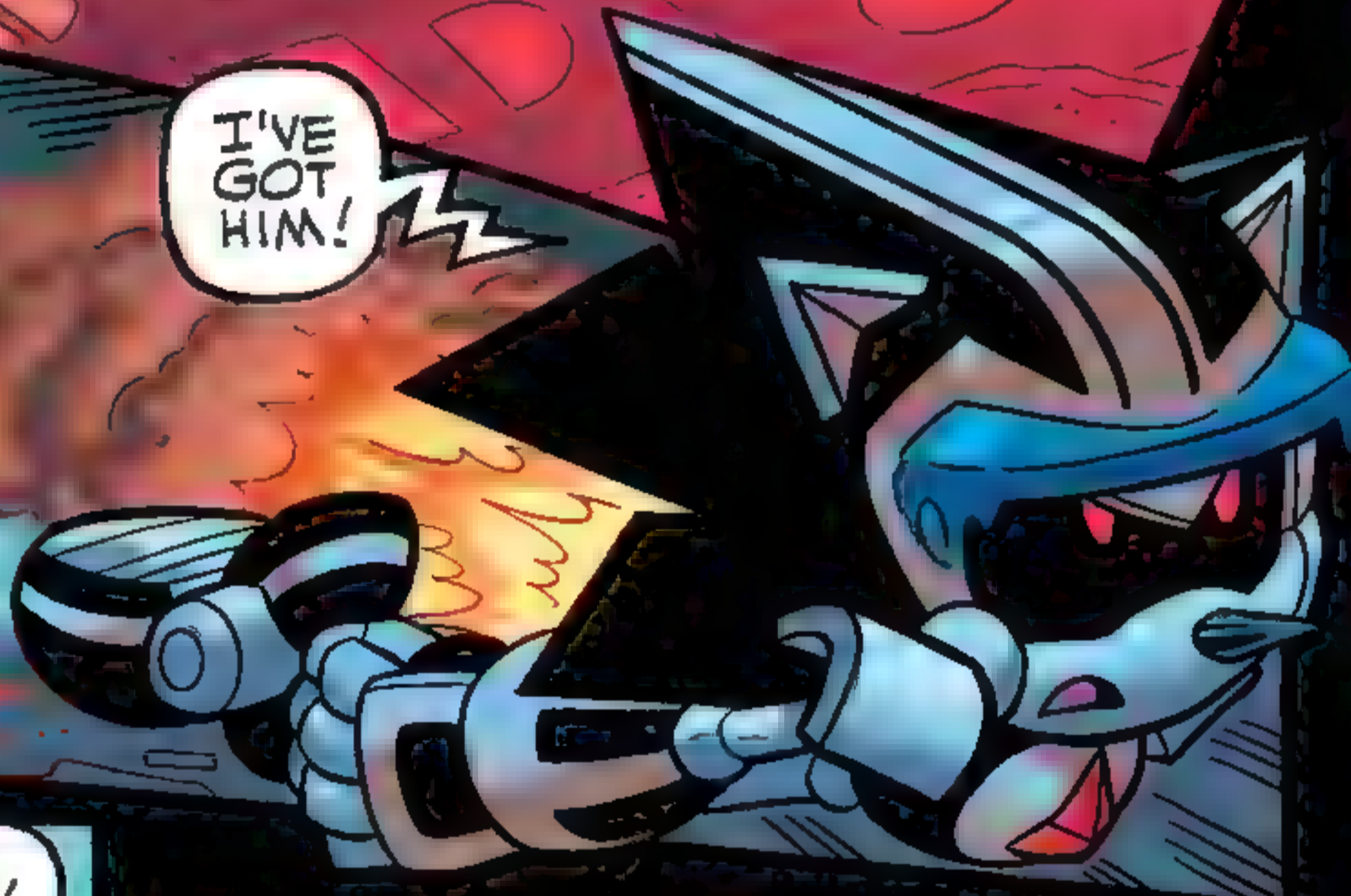


...HE'S ALREADY GONE! I GOT FRESH TRACKS!



JACK! WAIT!

I'VE GOT HIM!



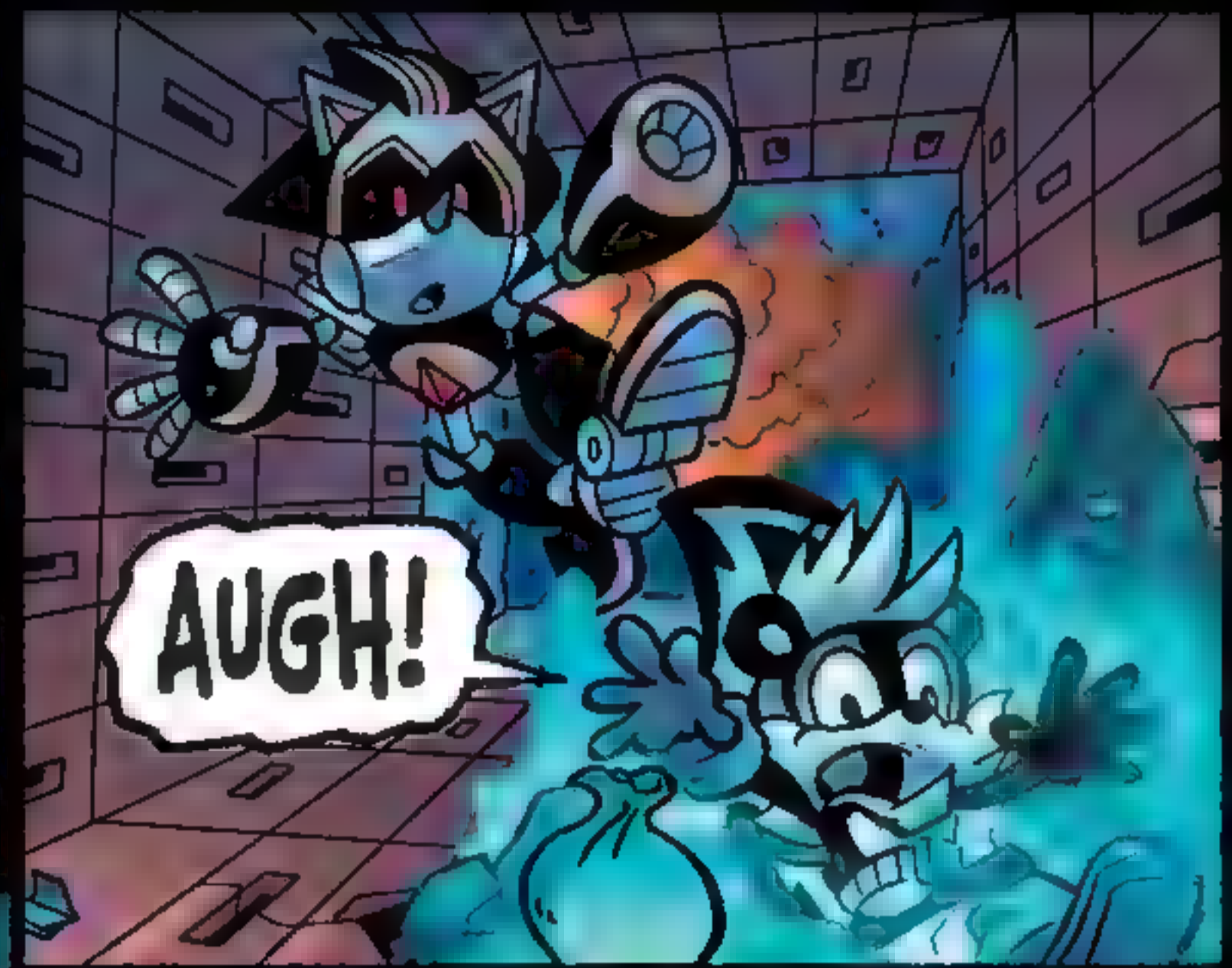
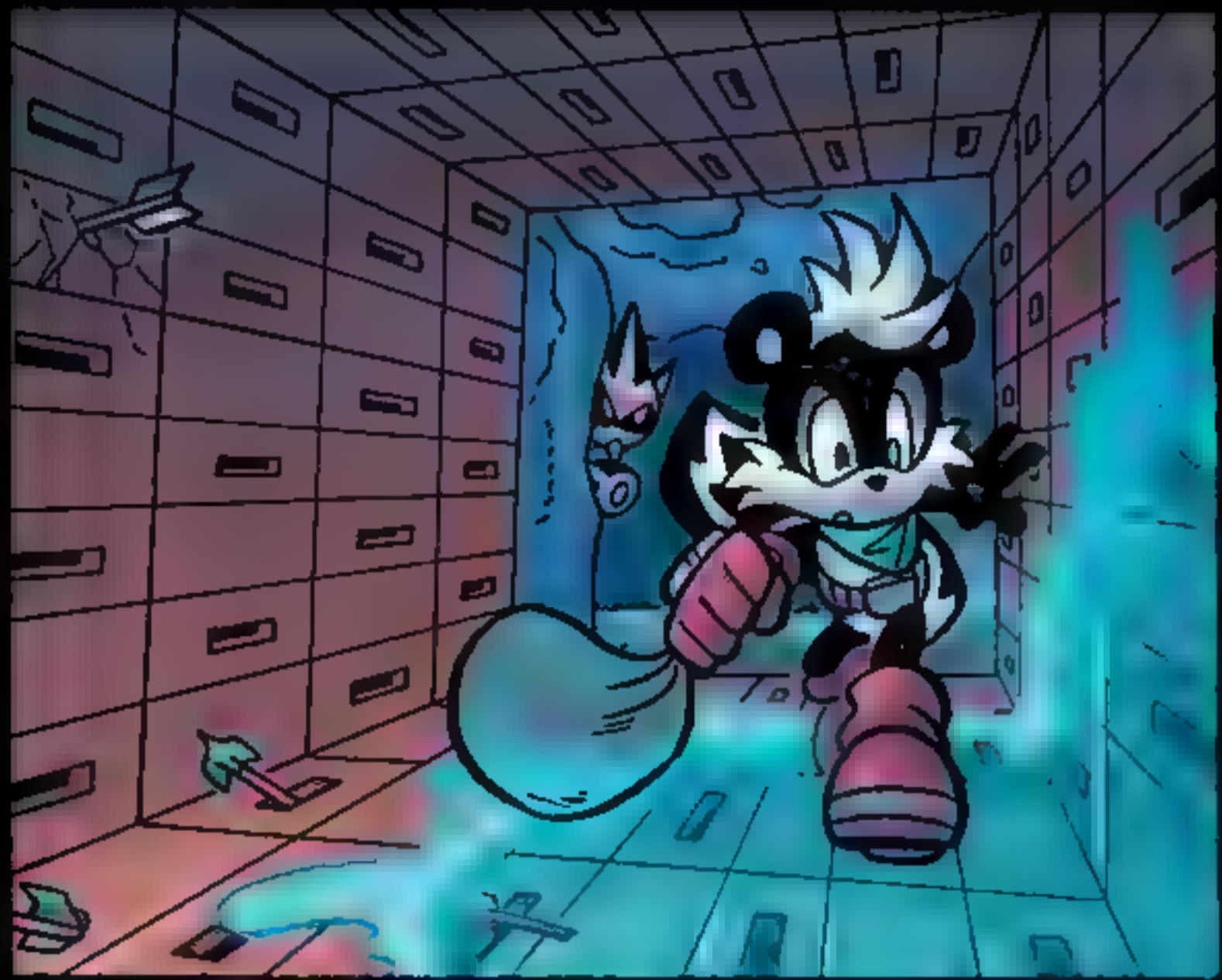
HE'S FAST, BUT NOT THAT FAST!

THEN WE NEED A SHORT CUT. HE MUST'VE SLIPPED RIGHT PAST US, SO IF WE CAME IN HERE, AND THEN THE PASSAGE LEADS LIKE SO...



...THAT PUTS HIM ABOUT THERE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



AUGH!

SHOW-OFF.



YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS. CAN YOU SEE IF HE'S CAUGHT IN THAT MESS?

NOT IMMEDIATELY, BUT I SAW HIM FALL.

HE SHOULD BE IMMOBILE, RIGHT?



MAYBE NOT.

UNLESS I'M CONCENTRATING ON HIM, HE MAY BE JUST FLOATING IN THERE. IT'S HARD TO...

I SEE HIM!

FREEZE!!



SSSSSS



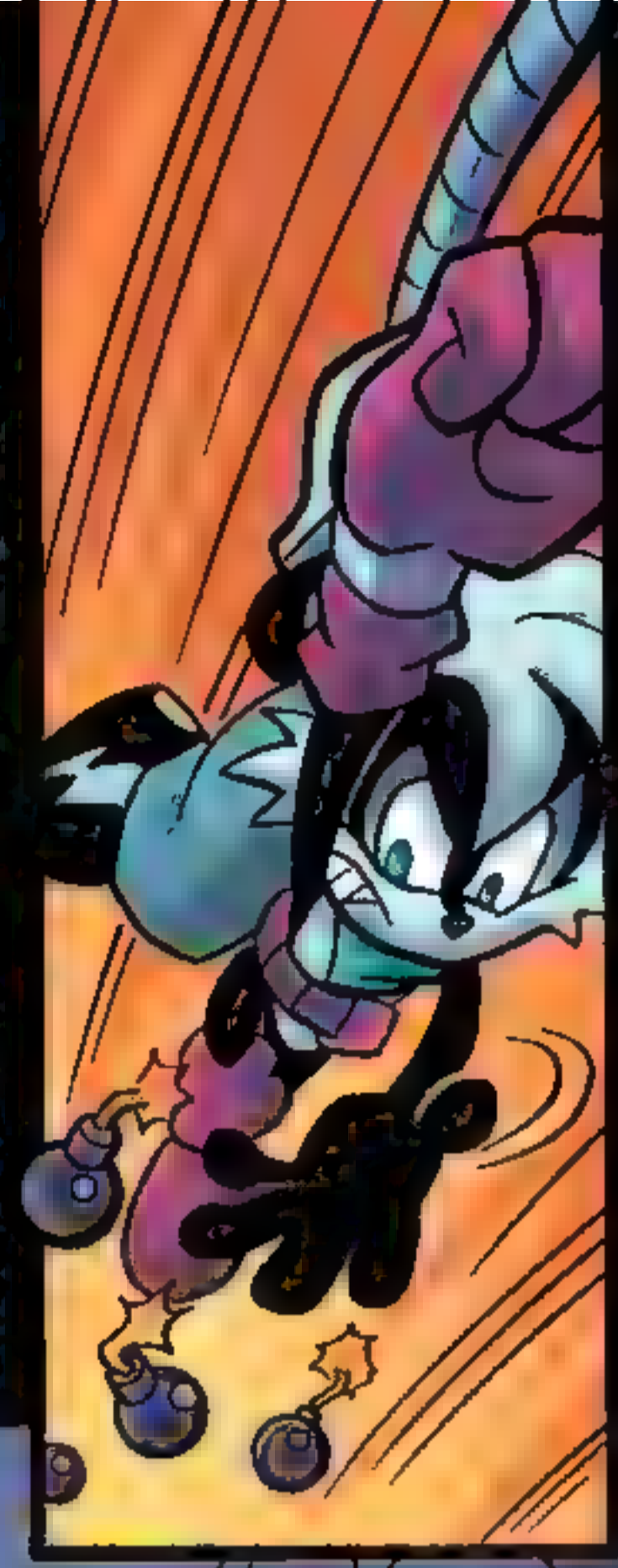
THWIP





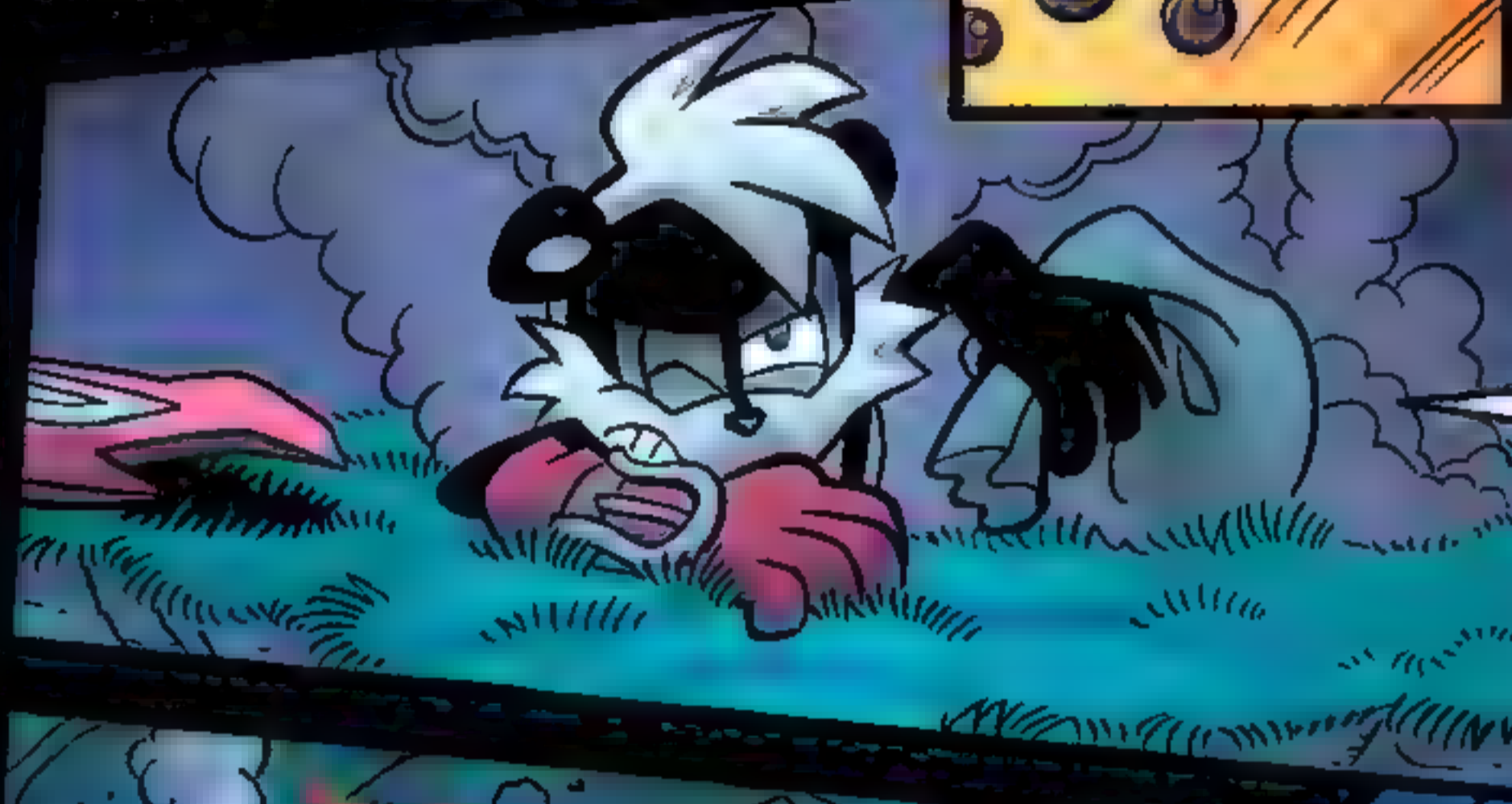
ARE YOU OKAY?!

HAVE I EVER MENTIONED HOW MUCH I HATE BEING BURIED ALIVE?



BOOM
RUMBLE

I WON'T LET YOU GET AW--
AHH!!



≡GASP!≡ OVERDID IT
A TAD ≡GASP!≡ WITH
THE MAGIC ≡GASP!≡

≡PANT!≡ THAT
WAS TOO CLOSE!
≡PANT!≡



I DON'T KNOW WHO THOSE BLOKES WERE... BUT I'M GLAD I WON'T HAVE TO FACE THEM AGAIN...



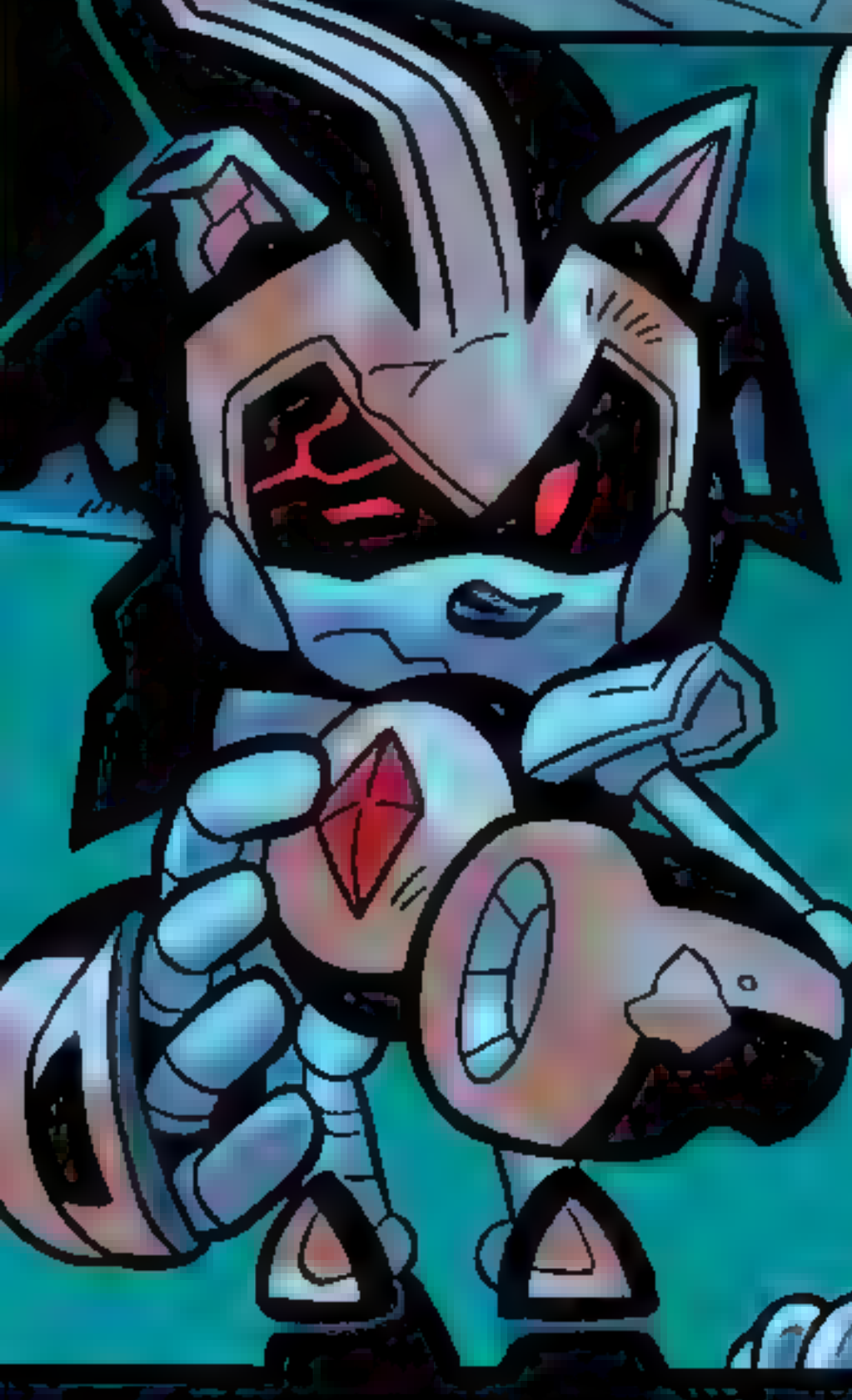


URGH...
YOU GOT THAT,
ACE?

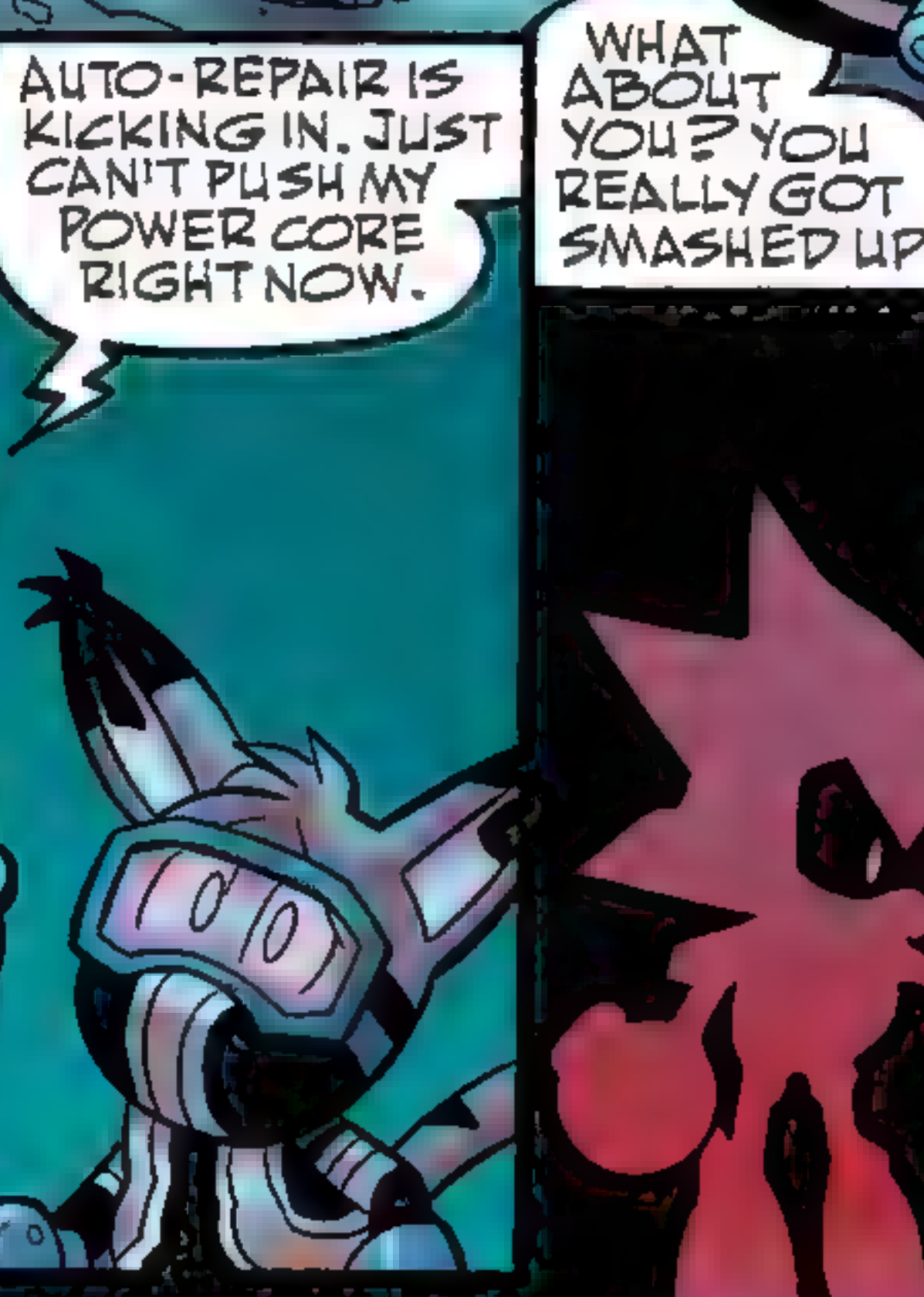
Y-YEAH...
I'VE GOT
IT FOR
NOW...

GOOD.
'CAUSE I DUNNO
IF I MENTIONED
IT, BUT I REALLY
HATE BEING
BURIED ALIVE.


ONCE IS
ENOUGH.



AUTO-REPAIR IS
KICKING IN. JUST
CAN'T PUSH MY
POWER CORE
RIGHT NOW.




WHAT
ABOUT
YOU? YOU
REALLY GOT
SMASHED UP.



AND DON'T JINX
ANYTHING RIGHT
NOW, OKAY?


JUST... SIT HERE
QUIETLY AND THINK
NON-JINXY
THOUGHTS.

OKAY...



IF I START DIGGING A
TUNNEL OUT, IS THAT
GOING TO DESTABILIZE
THINGS TOO MUCH FOR
YOU TO
HANDLE?

N-NO...
GO FOR
IT.



AT LEAST WE
GOT THE TRACKER
ON THE AIRBOARD.

I HOPE
THE OTHER TEAM
IS DOING
BETTER...

MEANWHILE, FAR AWAY FROM SILVER AND HIS TEAM...

WHAT THE--?
THERE WASN'T A
BRANCHING
PATH HERE
BEFORE!

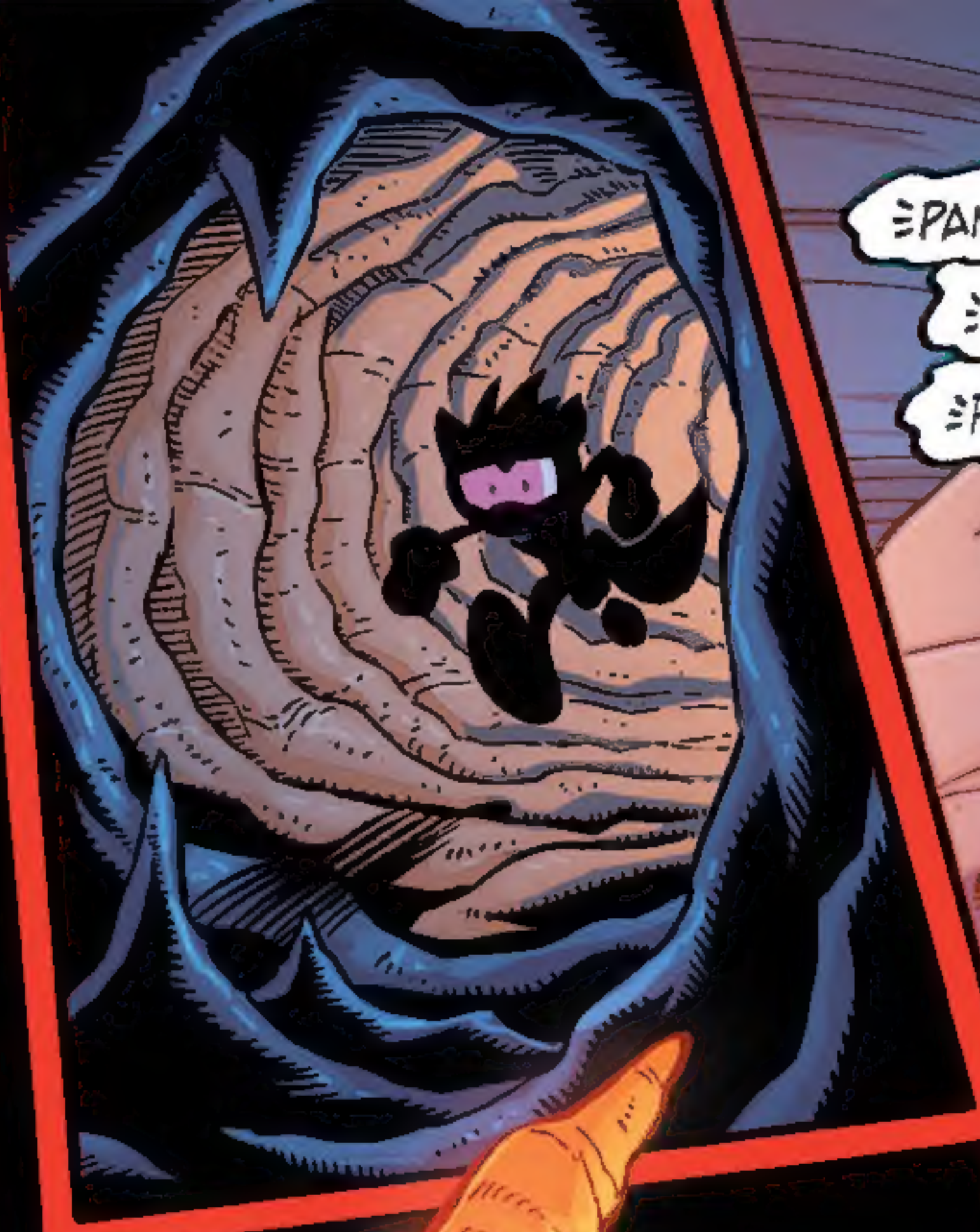


HE'S
RESHAPING
THE CAVE
TO TRAP
US!

SPLIT UP!
STICK TO ONE
WALL, AND DOUBLE-
BACK IF YOU HIT A
DEAD END!

WHY DID YOU
HAVE TO SAY
"DEAD
END"...







SPANT!E

SPANT!E

SPANT!E



YOU CANNOT
HIDE, INTRUDERS!
THERE IS **NO**
ESCAPE!



THINGS SEEM TO BE GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE! CHECK BACK NEXT TIME FOR ELIAS' TEAM'S MISSION--WHICH MAY BE THEIR LAST! FOR MORE GREAT **SECRET FF ACTION**, CHECK OUT CURRENT ISSUES OF **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!**

MY SONIC UNIVERSE™ FAN ART

Reggie G.
from Canada



Jaelen M.
from Georgia



Shandarrah M.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

FAN FUNNIES!



Mitchell M. from Canada

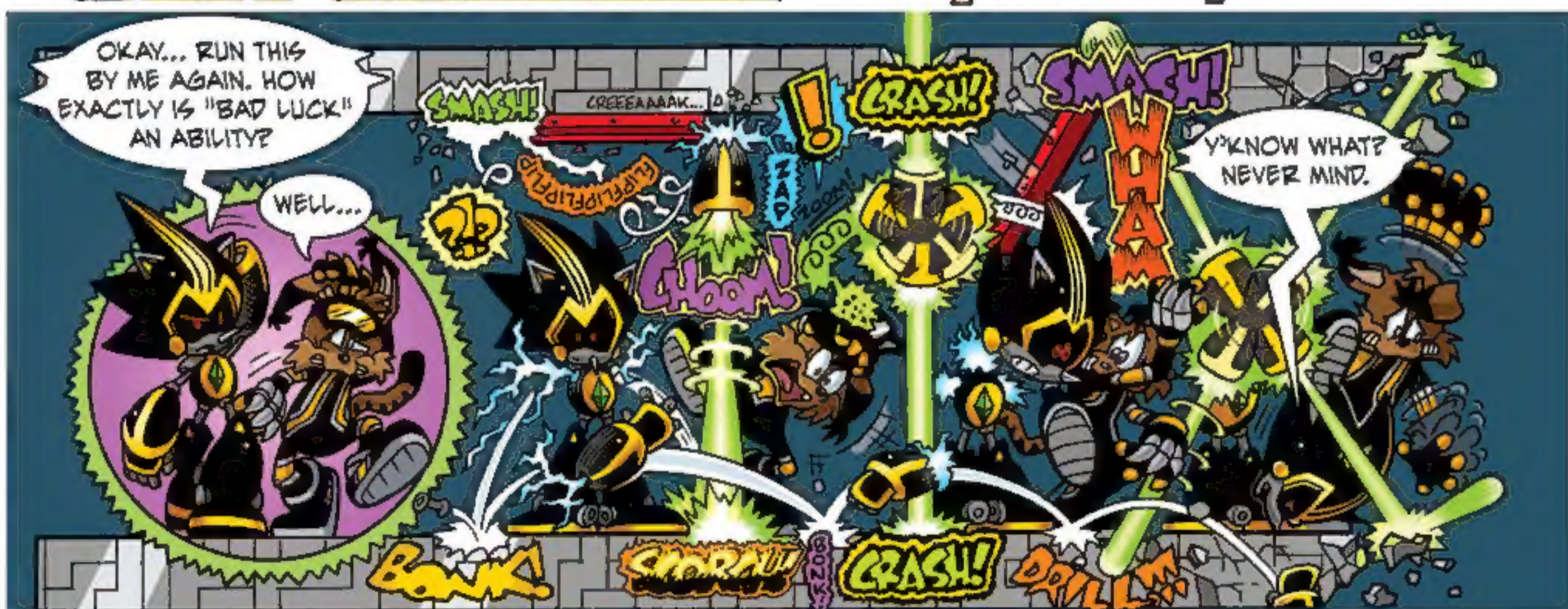
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OFF-PANEL

THE SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS!



SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: JONATHAN GRAY INKS: GARY MARTIN COLORS: ALEAH BAKER

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COMING SOON!

NEXT ISSUE: 42



UNSUNG HEROES PART II

THE UNDER COVER CHADS CONTINUES IN...

SECRET FREEDOM PART 2 (of 4)

ON SALE THE WEEK OF 07/24/12!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: 238



THE FIGHT RAGES ON!

SONIC BETTER STEP ON IT, OR ELSE LUPE IS LIKELY TO GET LEGIONIZED IN...

"LOYALTY PART 2"

ON SALE THE WEEK OF 07/10/12

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'

Hello I'm Jada and I love Sonic Universe. I've been reading ever since the Silver Saga started and I'm the biggest Tracy Yardley fan! So can you give him a big hug from me?

Jada T.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

How about a well-deserved high five? NOW THAT--that I can do!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'

Given the current look of ads for this series, am I to understand that, as I write this, at the end of Scrambled, Sonic Universe is now halfway through its life cycle and we can all look forward to 3 & 1/2 more years of it?

John S.
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

Hiya, John! I do believe you're referring to the designated "blank" spots on the SU arcs ad! Well, you'll be happy to know that Sonic Universe only has a life-cycle as long as you fans keep reading! So hopefully 3 1/2 years from now, we'll need to re-evaluate the look of that ad!

Dear 'My Sonic

Universe,'

Just recently started collecting and reading the Sonic Comics.

Welcome welcome!

I was not aware of their existence in their original run in the 90s, and I must say I like them a lot. I've started collecting and reading the Archives from the very beginning, but I've run into a bit of a snag.

Uh-oh...

I'm sure you've heard this question a million times before, but it's new to me. Why aren't the Sally and Tails Mini Series in any of the Archives or Collections? I'm not buying these comics as collector's items, but as reading material. I'm missing out on huge chunks of the story, and the editors notes in the main comic series reference the miniseries quite frequently, frequently enough that I've stopped reading the main storyline entirely until I can get my hands on at least Princess Sally's and Tails' miniseries stories.

Ah yes, I too faced this problem when trying to read-through the entire Sonic series! Fear not, the Sally and Tails mini-series will BOTH be collected in upcoming volumes

of the Sonic Select Graphic Novel series! So there!

What I really don't want to do is hunt up an expensive original edition and devalue it by removing it from its plastic wrapping and thumbing through it while reading it. That's what the Archives are for, right?

Right!

Anyway, if you have heard this question a million times before, I'm sure you have a stock answer prepared. Or maybe, the million-and-first question will be enough to convince you it might be a good idea. Either way, I await a reply.

Sincerely,
New Comic Fan
sent to sonic@archiecomics.com

And a reply ye shall receive!

And that, faithful Sonic comic fans, concludes the letters column to our RECORD-SETTING 41st issue of Sonic Universe!

SEE Y'ALL NEXT MONTH!

And thanks to all you fans out there who keep this series going strong!

IT'S YOUR SONIC UNIVERSE!

We want your input! Write & tell us what you're likin', lovin', or what's leaving you in the dust! Remember, include "My Sonic Universe" in the subject line on your letter or e-mail! It's your Sonic Universe, after all, so drop us a line!